

Appl. No. : **10/796,767**
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Paragraphs [0069], [0070], and [0079] as follows:

[0069] The throttle valve 198 preferably moves between a fully open position $[\theta_o]$ and a fully closed position $[\theta_c]$. The closer the valve disc 202 approaches the fully open position $[\theta_o]$, the larger the amount of the air or airflow rate is. Unless the environmental circumstances change, an engine speed and power output of the engine 72 increases generally along with increases in the air amount or airflow rate.

[0070] When the operator detaches his or her hand from the throttle valve control lever 50, the throttle valve 198 returns to a mechanically held position $[\theta_m]$, which is equal to an initial idle position $[\theta_i]$, at which the throttle valve 198 slightly opens from the fully closed position $[\theta_c]$. In the illustrated embodiment, the throttle valve 198 also returns to the mechanically held position $[\theta_m]$ whenever the ECU 180 is deactivated. An air amount at the idle position $[\theta_i]$ can keep the engine operation at idle. The idle position $[\theta_i]$ can move from the initial position in a small range by controls of the ECU 180 such as, for example, an idle speed control.

[0079] For example, the ECU 180 can be configured to activate the throttle valve actuator 210 and optionally, the shut-off valve actuators 90. The throttle valve actuator 210 can be configured to set the throttle valve 198 to the fully closed position $[\theta_c]$ or at least a shut-off position $[\theta_t]$ that is almost equal to the fully closed position $[\theta_c]$ and can sufficiently inhibit water from entering the intake chamber 192. The open degree of the shut-off position $[\theta_t]$ can be smaller than any one of the idle position $[\theta_i]$, the mechanically held position $[\theta_m]$, and the start position $[\theta_s]$ even though the throttle valve 198 remains partially open in the shut-off position $[\theta_t]$. The shut-off valve actuators 90 also set the shut-off valves 86, 88 to the closed position.